



საქართველოს შრომის
ჯანმრთელობის და
სოციალური დაცვის
საგანმმართველო



Memorandum of Understanding

Between The Ministry of Labour Health and Social Affairs and UNICEF
within the Initiative “Reaching Highly Vulnerable Children in Georgia with a Focus on
Children Living or Working on the Streets”

Background

The child care reform process that started in 2005 is being successfully implemented. The number of children in large scale institutions has decreased significantly; alternative family-support and family-substitute services have been developed and are expanding including foster care and small group homes.

The Government and international partner organizations recognize that gaps identified during the reform process relate to the most vulnerable children, including children who live and/or work on the streets. The “Child Action Plan for 2012-2015” (decree of the Government of Georgia #762 of April 24, 2012) clearly describes activities to be carried out in this regard, such as establishing and developing new approaches and services to aid children leaving and/or working on the streets, support of families for reintegration purposes; And, activities to be carried out for protection of children’s’ rights. New approaches and services are required to reach these children, to support their reintegration with families where possible, and to ensure that their rights to basic education, protection and care are met.

The Initiative “Reaching Highly Vulnerable Children in Georgia with a Focus on Children Living or Working on the Streets” (hereinafter referred to as “initiative”) aims at establishing sustainable state financed, community-based mechanisms for the development and social integration of highly vulnerable children with a particular focus on children living and working on the streets. This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the commitments of the two main implementing partners – the Ministry of Health Labour and Social Affairs and UNICEF.

Subject of the Memorandum

We, the undersigned, the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, (represented by Zurab Tchiaberashvili), United Nations Children's Fund (represented by the Representative Roeland Monasch), hereinafter referred to as "Parties":

Guided by the respect for equality of the Parties and considering the importance of the Child Care Reform;

Expressing our commitment to develop a sustainable state financed, community-based mechanism for the harmonious development and social integration of highly vulnerable children including those who live and/or work on the street;

Understanding the need to coordinate activities (of the state and non-state actors) and bring together expertise of involved stakeholders;

Agree at defining the roles and commitments of the parties within the initiative in the following way:

Article 1

A. MOLHSA is responsible to:

- Co-chair an Interagency Steering Committee overseeing the implementation of the "Child Action Plan 2012-2015" within the framework of the "Initiative", which represents the major decision making organ of the state policy towards highly vulnerable children, and particularly children living and/or working on the streets;
- Provide overall coordination and supervision of the activities related to the highly vulnerable children and particularly children living and/or working on the streets;
- Coordinate agencies involved in the Interagency Steering Committee to ensure fulfilment of their obligations; act as secretariat of the Interagency Steering Committee, and oversee implementation of the activities;
- Lead the development of the state concept on highly vulnerable children;
- Provide with identification of (at least two) suitable buildings in Tbilisi owned by central and local government, and (at least one building) in a city to be identified in West Georgia, which can be used for provision of services related to the "Initiative";
- Develop a sustainable funding mechanism and carry out activities necessary for budgetary allocation that will ensure provision of services by the NGO service providers involved in the "Initiative";
- Outsource the provision of specialized services to NGOs involved in the "Initiative" from day 1 of their operation by financing of the running costs based on agreed amount;
- Develop and adopt standards for outsourced services and ensure proper monitoring of NGO service providers;

- Ensure monitoring of the services under the frame of the “Initiative”;
Announce a moratorium on the entry of beneficiaries into Tbilisi Child Crisis Center, of the LLEPL State Care Agency (territorial unit) as soon as 24-hour crises centres become operational;
- Develop and maintain a database for children living and working in the streets and incorporate it in Social Information Management System of MoLHSA;
- Provide 50% of salaries of three members of the administrative/coordinating group of the “Initiative” in year 2 of the initiative;
Recruit social workers of mobile teams (at senior social worker level), (3 in Tbilisi in Year 1; and 1 in West Georgia in Year 2) to lead the work of the mobile groups;
- Ensure assessment of children working and/or living on the streets by Social Workers and their placements in the corresponding services;
- Synchronize mobile team activity with overall functioning of state social work.

B. UNICEF is responsible to:

- Co-chair an Interagency Steering Committee overseeing the implementation of the “Child Action Plan 2012-2015” within the framework of the “Initiative”;
- Provide technical support to ensure maximum impact of the Initiative;
- Recruit and employ administrative/coordination 3 member-team of the Initiative and second them to the MoLHSA; ensure 100% of their salaries in year 1 of the Initiative and 50% - in year 2;
- Provide financial support to agreed partner organizations within the initiative to renovate premises for service provision provided by the government;
- Through the agreed partner organizations recruit and employ 2 members of each mobile team (3 teams in Tbilisi and 1 in selected location in West Georgia); and procure cars for mobile teams (3 in Tbilisi and 1 in west Georgia);
- Provide financial support to agreed partner organizations for capacity building of professionals;
- Coordinate activities between the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, NGO partners of the Initiative and other relevant stakeholders;
- Provide oversight and monitoring to agreed actions.

Article 2

All roles and responsibilities defined in this memorandum are contingent upon European Union financial support to support the initiative over two years at a cost of 750,000 Euro.

Article 3

Parties are authorized to form working groups upon joint agreement. Parties may choose to invite/engage the representatives of other state and non-governmental organizations, or the third parties in the working groups if needed.

Article 4

Amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding shall be made upon agreement between Parties. The amendments shall be an inseparable part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 5

This Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective upon securing funding for the "Initiative" from the European Union Delegation in Georgia and will expire after 2 years.

Each party is authorized to make a statement about its decision to terminate the present Memorandum of Understanding. Termination shall enter into force upon receiving notification.

Article 6

Memorandum of Understanding is made up in two identical legal copies in English and Georgian languages. In case of inconsistency between Georgian and English versions, Georgian version will prevail.

SIGNATORIES

"Ministry"

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Representative

25/7/12